CERTIFIED REENTRY SPECIALIST TRAINING 2019

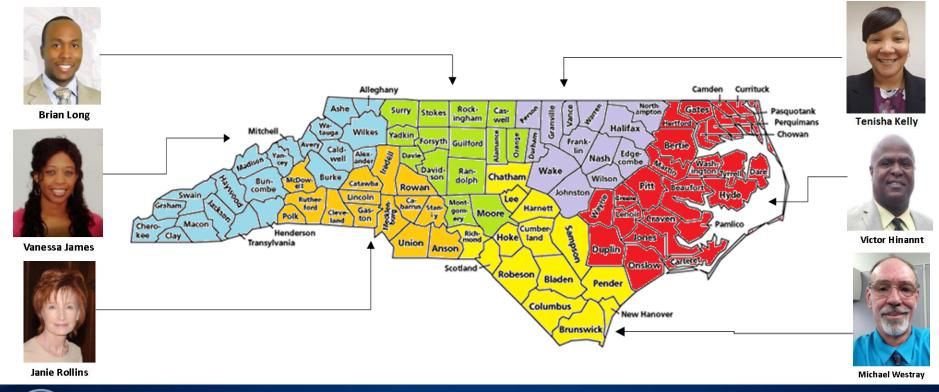
WENDI BOWEN EURE, REENTRY COORDINATOR NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REENTRY INITIATIVE



THE COMMERCE REENTRY TEAM

- Reentry Program Coordinator, Wendi Eure.....
- Six Highly Qualified Regional Reentry Specialists
- NCWorks Career Centers, Reentry Specialists, and partners





NC COMMERCE REENTRY INITIATIVE

Vision:

To help develop a culture in NC where individuals with a criminal record have the same access to employment as any other job seeker.

Mission:

Promote "Equitable Hiring" to employers, individuals with criminal records, and the community through engagement, education, and partnerships.

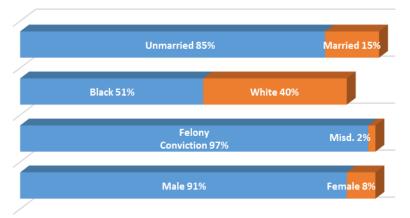
Regional Strategies and Goals:

- 1) Provide technical assistance and training to NCWorks Career Center staff
 - 1) Ensure ALL customers with criminal records are properly entered into NCWorks Online
 - 2) Regional Certified Reentry Specialist trainings and webinars
- 2) Educate employers and community about initiative programs and services available
 - 1) Host or provide employer events or learning sessions
 - 2) Develop a webinar for employers which will be live, but can be accessed afterward
- 3) Work with Department of Public Safety on various projects
- 4) Build network of partner service providers
 - 1) Participate in Reentry Councils and Reentry Roundtables across the state
 - 2) Host/provide community education events
- 5) Provide direct services to customers who need additional assistance
 - 1) Provide services to Inmates currently incarcerated (42 Jails, State and Federal Facilities)
 - 2) Promote Expungement and Certificate of Relief through legal clinics



TRUTH IN NUMBERS

36,176 Prison Inmates



Top crime categories are:

- Habitual Felon 4,933
- Sexual Assault 4,410

94,738 Probation/Post Release/Parole



Top crime categories are:

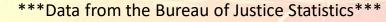
- Drugs- non Trafficking 19,092
- Driving While Impaired 13,150

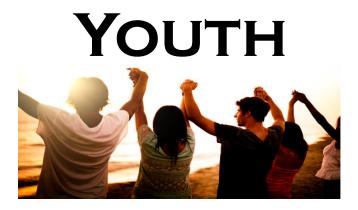
- Additional in Federal Prisons, Local Jails, OR not under any supervision
 - About 95% are released at some point
 - 26,575 were released from NC prisons in 2018



INCARCERATED VETERANS

- Over **180,000** Veterans incarcerated in state, federal prisons and local jails (2012)
- Veterans represent about 8% of the incarcerated population
- Incarceration rate for Veterans is slightly lower than that of non-veterans
- Black and Hispanics incarcerated represented **38%** of incarcerated Veterans
- Compared to 63% of incarcerated non-Veterans
- Greater percentage of incarcerated Veterans sentenced for violent offenses
 (64%)
- Compared to **48%** of non-Veterans sentences for violent offenses
- Veteran's Administration serving incarcerated veterans
- Veteran Treatment Court





- In 2017, law enforcement in the U.S. arrested over 809,000 individuals under age 18.
 - 29% Female, fastest growing population
 - 62% White / 35% Black

Raise the Age Initiative

- Currently, NC automatically charges 16-years-old and above in the <u>ADULT</u> criminal justice system.
- Effective December 2019, the juvenile jurisdiction will be raised for nonviolent crimes to age 18.
- Support for Raise the Age included all three branches of NC government executive, judicial and legislative – as well as law enforcement and advocacy organizations.

NCWORKS UPDATE: Juvenile criminal records should **NOT** be entered into NCWorks. Only those convicted under the adult criminal justice system.

US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/qa05101.asp?qaDate=2017



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD IN NC

1 in 3 Working age adults have something on their criminal record!

What is on a criminal record?

- Criminal Convictions (Guilty)
- Arrests
- Dismissed Charges
- Charges Disposed "Not Guilty"
- Charges Pled to Lesser Offenses
- Deferred Prosecution/Diversionary Program
- Domestic Violence/Restraining Orders

Who maintains criminal records?

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Local/State/Federal Law Enforcement
- Department of Public Safety
- Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Private Background Check Companies, (Credit Reporting Agencies)
- Media



LOOKING UP A CRIMINAL RECORD

- Adult criminal records are <u>PUBLIC</u> record
- Have a reason for looking up a customer's record, not just because they "look like a criminal"
- Do not use this information for harm, Use it to better assist the customer
- NC DPS Public Offender Search: <u>https://webapps.doc.state.nc.us/opi/offendersearch.do?method=view</u>
- NC Sex Offender Registry: http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov/search.aspx
- Federal Inmate Locator: https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/
- NC Court Calendar to search upcoming court dates: http://www1.aoc.state.nc.us/www/calendars/CriminalQuery.html

Collateral consequences of a criminal record can be more destructive than direct consequences Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool (C-CAT): https://ccat.sog.unc.edu/



DIRECT SERVICES

Those who are employed are <u>3 times</u> less likely to return to prison

Direct services are provided by the NCWorks Career Center staff and recorded in NCWorks

- Customers with a past criminal record or pending charge should be able to access all the services the center has to offer.
- No customer should ever be turned away
- Job referrals should not be denied based on criminal record
- Only refer to Regional Reentry Specialist after staff have done all they can do
 with the individual and more assistance is needed, or in other special
 situations. *Customer should be registered in NCWorks <u>PRIOR</u> to referral.

In 2018, Centers served **OVER 10,000** individuals who disclosed having a record.



NCCRI REGISTRATION

ANY customer with a criminal record should have the NC Commerce Reentry Characteristic selected by ANY NCWorks Career Center Staff.

The proper procedure is as follows:

Step 1: In the general information ensure the "Have you been previously arrested or convicted of a crime" is properly annotated.

Step 2: Under the W-P wizard, "Barriers", ensure the box is checked for ex-offender

Step 3: Under the Special Project/Indicator 1, Select NC Commerce Reentry Initiative

Step 4: Under the activity/service plan, enter a Service R01 service.

***Only enter Conviction info on individuals with an ADULT criminal record

***Detailed instructions were sent to all DWS staff and Local Area Directors



WIOA LEGISLATION (REENTRY)

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDANCE LETTER WIOA NO. 19-16

OPERATING GUIDANCE for the WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Priority Populations under WIOA. Across all titles, WIOA focuses on serving "individuals with barriers to employment", defined in WIOA section 3(24) and seeks to ensure access to quality services for these populations.

The populations included in the "individuals with barriers to employment" in WIOA sec. 3(24) include:

- (a) Displaced homemakers (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(16));
- (b) Low-income individuals (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(36));
- (c) Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians (as defined in WIOA sec. 166(b));
- (d) Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(25) (includes individuals who are in receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance);
- (e) Older individuals (age 55 and older) (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(39));
- (f) Ex-offenders ("offender" as defined in WIOA sec. 3(38)); (38) Offender.--The term "offender" means an adult or juvenile-- (A) who is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process, and for whom services under this Act may be beneficial; or (B) who requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.
- (g) Homeless individuals or homeless children and youths (see Attachment III);



APPLICATION AND RESUME TIPS

- Fill in work history gaps
- Include work done while incarcerated
- Include training taken while incarcerated
- Include time spent in college or training
- Include part-time and volunteer work
- Include side jobs and work done "off the books"
- Consider using a functional resume for limited work history

FIRST LAST NAME

EMAIL@gmail.com •888-888-8888 • Address Asheville, NC 28801

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY (OPTIONAL): Skilled hands for hard work, construction, & landscaping.

WORK ETHICS

Completer of tasks Responsible Hard worker Reliable Good time management Team player Honest Diligent

Reliable

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

General Construction/ Handyman work

- Control traffic passing near, in, or around work zones.
- Material handling: Load and unload building materials, machinery, or tools
- Mix, pour, or spread concrete and asphalt, using portable cement mixers.
- Position and hold timbers, lumber, or paneling in place for fastening, cutting, drilling, and installing

Landscaping and Grounds keeping

- Operate vehicles and powered equipment, such as mowers, edgers, snow blowers, chain saws, electric clippers, sod cutters, and pruning saws.
- Care for established lawns by mulching, weeding, fertilizing, pruning, and trimming
- > Use hand tools, such as shovels, rakes, pruning saws, saws, hedge or brush trimmers, or axes.

Restaurant: Cook and Cashier

- Maintain sanitation, health, and safety standards in work areas.
- Clean food preparation areas, cooking surfaces, and utensils.
- Cook and package batches of food, which are prepared to order or kept warm until sold.
- Operate large-volume cooking equipment such as grills, deep-fat fryers, or griddles
- Prepare and cook food according to customer order slips and or instructions.
- Clean, stock, and restock workstations and display cases
- Receive payment by cash, check, credit cards, or automatic debits.
- > Maintain clean, orderly checkout areas; complete other general cleaning duties: mopping floors & trash removal

WORK EXPERIENCE

2017 C. Enterprise City, NC City, NC 2016 Johnston's Kitchen City, NC 2015 Gentry's Landscaping City, NC Bo iangles 2014-2015 J.T. Handyman City, NC 2013-2014

EDUCATION/ CERTIFICATIONS

High School Diploma (High School Equivalency Diploma) NAME OF High School Certified Welder NAME OF High School **CRC Silver** NAME OF High School

VOLUNTEER WORK MILITARY SERVICE

LETTER OF EXPLANATION

- •Explain negative background
- Prove Rehabilitation
- From your heart
- Show Remorse
- Grammar and spelling

Introduction, reason for letter

I am submitting my application for the position of _____. With this letter, I wish to provide an explanation of my past

Explain the history of the problem,

- What led you to the criminal behavior
- Don't be timid in giving details of personal challenges

Describe the steps you have taken to correct the problem

Close the letter by looking to your future



WHAT DETERMINES RISK?

- ✓ Number of Crimes and Type of Crimes
- ✓ Time passed with good behavior
- ✓ Financial status, ability to meet financial obligations
- ✓ Marital Status
- ✓ Attitude and willingness to change behavior
- ✓ Substance misuse, addiction
- ✓ Employment Status, Stability of Employment
- ✓ Education Level, High School Completion
- ✓ Gender
- ✓ Age



HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RISK LEVEL?

- Education
- Employment
- Motivation
- Proper Referrals to other services such as:
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - •Mental Health Treatment
 - Housing
 - •Food
 - Clothing



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS



EMPLOYER RELATIONS & INCENTIVE PROGRAMS



FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM (FBP)

AN INCENTIVE FOR EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE "AT RISK" INDIVIDUALS

- Provides a guarantee of job honesty by issuing FREE bonding to reimburse the employer for any loss due to employee theft of money or property.
 - \$5,000 in coverage (Up to \$25,000 if business needs require)
 - 6 Months of Coverage at NO COST
 - No application or forms to complete (our staff take care of that)
 - No Deductible if employee dishonesty occurs
 - No age limits for bonded individuals (other than legal working age)
 - ANY job can be covered
 - ANY full or part-time employee paid wages with Federal taxes automatically deducted
 - Temporary Agencies are eligible
- Targets "At Risk" individuals including those who:
 - Have a criminal conviction or arrest record;
 - Have a history of substance abuse;
 - Receive TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families);
 - Have poor credit;
 - Are economically disadvantaged or with little or no work history; or
 - Have been dishonorably discharged from the military
 - *Eligible individuals should be given the Federal Bonding Eligibility Letter*



Accessing the FBP is EASY!

- A job offer is made, PRIOR to the first day of work, the <u>Employer</u> contacts Career Center staff, Regional Reentry staff, or the FBP Coordinator
- 2. Staff completes and submits the Federal Bonding Request form (revised 8/2019) to the Federal Bonding Coordinator.
- The Federal Bonding Coordinator processes the bond and sends employer letter. The bond is issued and made effective on the employee's first day of work.
- 4. Employer receives a packet from Union Insurance Group with additional information.

NC FEDERAL BONDING REQUEST FORM

This document must be completed and forwarded to the Federal Bonding Coordinator, Wendi Eure, by email (wendi.bowen@nccommerce.com) for processing. Some questions have a dropdown box with multiple options. To access the dropdown box, click "Choose an item" and then click the down arrow. Additional instructions and definitions can be found on pages 2-3.

Section 1: NCW	orks Career Center or Other Job Pla	cement Agency:	
Agency Name		Completed by	
Agency Address		Email Address	
City/State/Zip		Phone + Ext	

Section 2: Company	y Requesting Bonding:		
Company Industry	Choose an item.	Contact Person	
Company Name		Phone/Ext	
Company Address City/State/ Zip		Email Address	
Type of Company	Choose an item.	Number of Employees	Choose an item.

Section 3: Worker	Covered By 1	Bond:		
First & Last Name			Start Date	Click here to enter a date.
Worker's Address City/State/Zip			Job Title	
Hispanic/Latino	YES 🗆	NO 🗆	Race	Choose an item.
Record of Arrest or Conviction?	YES 🗆	NO 🗆	Gender	Choose an item.
Worker's Hourly Wage			Hours per Week	

Section 4: Bond Coverage A	n 4: Bond Coverage Amount:		
Amount Requested		Justification for additional coverage (approval required)	
Justification is required if requested amount is more than \$5,000.	Choose an item.		

If you have questions, please contact:
Wendi Eure, NC Federal Bonding Coordinator
NC Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions
Phone: 919-814-0457
Email: wendi.bowen@nccommerce.com

Revised 9/2019



WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

A FEDERAL TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE INDIVIDUALS IN CERTAIN TARGET GROUPS

Reduces the federal tax liability of private-for-profit employers

Target Groups and Amounts:

Veteran Target Group

Veteran Target Group	Maximum Tax Credit
Receives SNAP (food stamps) benefits	\$2,400
Entitled to compensation for serv	ice-connected disability
Littled to compensation for servi	ice connected disability
Hired one year from leaving service	\$4,800
Unemployed at least 6 months	\$9,600
Unemployed	
At least 4 weeks	\$2,400
At least 6 months	\$5,600

Other WOTC Target Groups

Target Group	Maximum Tax Credit
Qualified Long-Term Unemployment Recipient	\$2,400
Short-Term TANF Recipient	\$2,400
Long-Term TANF Recipient	\$9,000 (over 2 yrs)
SNAP (food stamp) Recipient	\$2,400
Designated Community Resident	\$2,400
Vocational Rehabilitation Referral	\$2,400
Ex-Felon	\$2,400
SSI Recipient	\$2,400
Summer Youth	\$1,200

NC BUSINESS SAVINGS WITH EX-FELON CATEGORY

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Certified 1,818
EX-Felon Applications

Max Credit \$2,400 Total Savings = \$4.4 Million

- The Ex-Felon category represents only about 2.14% of the total Certified Tax Credits
- To qualify for this category, the individual must have a **felony conviction** or **release from prison** within the **past 12 months** prior to hire
- Employees must work at least **400 hours** to qualify for the maximum amount of \$2,400 (based on 40% of first year's wages)
- Employees who work between **120 and 399 hours** can qualify for a partial tax credit up to **\$1,500** (based on 25% of first year's wages)



How Does IT Work?

- **Step 1: Employee or Employer** Completes IRS Form 8850 (Pre-Screening Notification and Certification Request)
- **Step 2: Employer** Completes ETA Form 9061 (Individual Characteristics Form)
- **Step 3: Employer** registers as a user at www.ncworkswotc.com and electronically submits the request to NC Division of Workforce Solutions within 28 days of the new employee start date.
- *Hard copies of Form 8850 and Form 9061 should be retained by employer for their records.
- **Step 4: Employer** receives an electronic determination of eligibility, denial with explanation, or request for additional information.
- **Step 5:** After receiving a certification, employer may file for the tax credit with the IRS on their yearly taxes.
- *Tax credits can be claimed only once per employee, but there is **no limit** on the number of qualifies employees the company can hire

For More Information or Questions:

Freeman Denton | WOTC Program Coordinator | 919-814-0439

<u>Freeman.denton@nccommerce.com</u> <u>https://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/</u>



100-DAY NO FAULT GUARANTEE

- Selecting the right person for a job can be a challenge.
- If you need to terminate a <u>new</u> employee, your unemployment insurance taxes may not be affected.
- Applicable only if the employee is terminated...
 - within a 100-day period from the date of hiring.
 - due to a bona fide inability to do the work.
- Employers must request the non-charging by contacting the Division of Employment Security.
- As a result, the employer is not penalized for giving someone a chance at the job.
- Reduces the federal tax liability of private-for-profit employers



For More Information or Questions:

Contact the Division of Employment Security Employer Call Center at 919-707-1150 This information is also available:

https://des.nc.gov/DES/Static?page=100DayGuarantee

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC) GUIDANCE

Charge/Arrest v. Conviction

- The fact of an arrest does not establish that criminal conduct has occurred, and an exclusion based on an
 arrest, in itself, is not job related and consistent with business necessity. However, an employer may make an
 employment decision based on the conduct underlying an arrest if the conduct makes the individual unfit for
 the position in question.
- In contrast, a conviction record will usually serve as sufficient evidence that a person engaged in particular conduct.
- Federal law discourages employers from having a blanket policy of denying employment to individuals with criminal histories

Employers must give full consideration to certain factors including:

- The nature and gravity of the offense(s);
- The time that has passed since the conviction and/or completion of the sentence; and
- The nature of the job held or sought.

Resource: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/arrest_conviction.cfm

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT

Where a criminal record report is provided to an employer by a credit reporting agency ("CRA"), the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") is applicable. FCRA creates obligations on both CRAs preparing criminal background reports and on employers using them.

Among the duties that FCRA imposes when (i) an <u>employer</u> uses (ii) a consumer report of a <u>criminal record provided by a CRA (3)</u> for purposes of an employment <u>decision</u>:

- **NOTICE AND AUTHORIZATON:** The employer must provide a clear written notice in a stand-alone document to the job applicant that it may obtain a consumer report. The employer also must obtain written authorization from the job applicant to get the report.
- **NOTICE OF PROSPECTIVE ADVERSE ACTION:** If an employer intends to take adverse action based on the consumer report, a copy of the report and a Summary of Rights must be provided to the job applicant before the action is taken. The reason for this requirement is to permit a job applicant to address the report before an employment decision is made.
- NOTICE OF ACTUAL ADVERSE ACTION: After an adverse decision is made, an employer must notify
 the job applicant that an adverse decision was made as a result of the report and must provide,
 among other things, the name, address and telephone number of the CRA and the right to dispute
 the accuracy or completeness of the report.

EXPUNCTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA

An expunction is the deletion of a criminal record and allows a person to honestly deny having a criminal record for most purposes (except in federal immigration or certain employment).

Eligibility

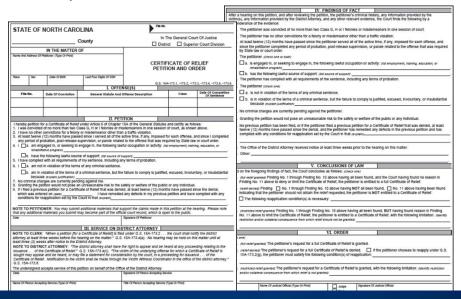
- A first-time, non-violent (felony offense over 10 years old or Misdemeanor offense over 5 years old)
- A first-time offense committed by someone under 18 or under 22 (depending on the category of expungement being applied)
- Dismissed or disposed charges (not guilty)
- *There are many factors used to determine eligibility. To be certain about eligibility for an expungement, those interested should consult with an attorney.
- DWS staff cannot give legal advice or guidance to customers
- Free legal clinics can be established at any NCWorks Career Center. To set up these clinics, reach out to your Regional Reentry Specialist.
- If the customer is unable to afford a private attorney, North Carolina has options for free legal services such as Legal Aid of NC.

CERTIFICATES OF RELIEF (COR)

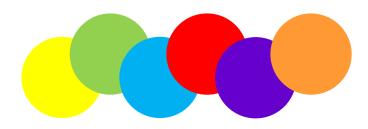
- A shield for employers, landlords, and other decision-makers from negligent liability
- Relieves most collateral sanctions and provides evidence of rehabilitation
- Individual must petition the court that convicted the person to receive a COR
- COR does not delete or obscure a criminal record

Eligibility:

- Available to individuals with any number of misdemeanors or up to 3 class H or I felonies
- Must have no pending charges and engaged in or seeking a lawful occupation
- Available one year after completion of sentence

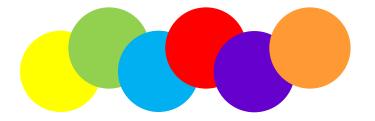






ANY QUESTIONS?





Reentry Staff Directory

Wendi Bowen Eure | Reentry Initiative & Federal Bonding Program Coordinator Raleigh | 919-814-0457 | wendi.bowen@nccommerce.com

Regional Reentry Specialists (Out-stationed Staff)

Vanessa James | Asheville | 919-368-5391 | vanessa.james@nccommerce.com

Brian Long | Lexington | 919-268-1996 | brian.long@nccommerce.com

Janie Rollins | Salisbury | 919-909-1616 | janie.rollins@nccommerce.com

Tenisha Kelly | Raleigh | 919-841-0458 | tenisha.Kelly@nccommerce.com

Victor Hinnant | Greenville | 919-607-0645 | victor.hinnant@nccommerce.com

Michael Westray | Fayetteville | 919-306-1029 | michael.westray@nccommerce.com

